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21 November 1950

D. A. F.

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Comments regarding Telecommunications
Problems being considered by the President's
Communications Policy Board

1. The attached comments were prepared in response to a request from the President's Communications Policy Board and are restricted to the broad aspects of the three basic problems involved. It should be noted that each of the three is controversial in nature:

a. Establishment of a Communications Policy Board - The proposal to provide a means for overall direction in the telecommunications field is not new. This requirement has been particularly evident since World War II. Attempts within the Government to establish methods and procedures for accomplishing this objective have resulted in a stalemate, chiefly due to unreconcilable differences of opinion as to the responsibilities of existing agencies concerned in this field.

b. Merger of Commercial Overseas Communications Companies - The subject of merger has been considered by both the executive and legislative branches of the Government. While there is general agreement by both Government and non-Government agencies on the principle involved, there is wide disagreement as to the extent of the merger to be effected—whether complete or partial, permissive or mandatory.

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2. The problem of frequency assignments and subsequent administration has not been touched upon herein since it is believed to be a part of the broader problems mentioned, particularly that of establishing a Communications Policy Board.

Assistant Director
Special Operations

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